



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

88  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/847,669	05/02/2001	James Leonard Clark	GTRC31CIP	4780

7590 12/08/2003

Todd Deveau  
Thomas, Kayden, Horstemeyer & Risley L.L.P.  
100 Galleria Parkway  
Suite 1750  
Atlanta, GA 30339

EXAMINER

EVANS, FANNIE L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2877

DATE MAILED: 12/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/847,669	CLARK ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	F. L. Evans	2877

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a)  This action is FINAL.                            2b)  This action is non-final.
- 3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4)  Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-8 and 13 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5)  Claim(s) 9-12 is/are allowed.
- 6)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10)  The drawing(s) filed on May 2, 2001 is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All    b)  Some \*    c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a)  The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5.
- 4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.  
5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Priority***

Applicant has not complied with one or more conditions for receiving the benefit of an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120 as follows:

This application is claiming the benefit of a prior filed nonprovisional application under 35 U.S.C. § 120, 121, or 365(c). Copendency between the current application and the prior application is required. This application was filed on May 2, 2001. Application Serial Number 09/085,743 was patented on May 2, 2000.

The “CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION” in lines 2-4 on page 1 of the specification should be deleted.

### ***Election/Restrictions***

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- I. Claims 1-8, drawn to a light detecting analysis system, classified in class 356, subclass 436.
- II. Claims 9-12, drawn to a method for analyzing a dye concentration, classified in class 356, subclass 300.
- III. Claim 13, drawn to a method of comparing dye concentrations, classified in class 356, subclass 433.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions II and III and I are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used

to practice another and materially different process. (MPEP § 806.05(e)). In this case the apparatus may be used to practice another materially different process. The dyebath required in the method claims is not considered as an element of the apparatus as such the apparatus may be used to detect any substance within the sample. The method claim 9 also does not require the particular elements of the apparatus such as the “flow cell”.

Inventions II and III are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the combination (Group III) does not require the particular step of measuring the non-dye components of the dyebath as well as the dye components of a dyebath using a light source projected at the same wavelength. The subcombination (Group II) has separate utility such as for measuring the particular concentration dye components in an unused dyebath, whereas the method claim 13 is for comparing the concentration of a spent dye bath to that of a reference sample wherein it is not required that the concentration measurements be made under the same measurement conditions.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification and because the search required for Group I is not required for Groups II and III, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

During a telephone conversation between Todd Deveau, attorney of record, and Brian

Gordon, examiner, on November 18, 2003 a provisional election was made with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group II, claims 9-12. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 1-8 and 13 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR § 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR § 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR § 1.17(i).

***The Information Disclosure Statement***

The prior art cited in the information disclosure statement filed on May 2, 2001 has been considered.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 9-12 are allowed over the prior art of record.

As to claim 9, the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious a method of analyzing the dye concentration in a dyebath sample comprising the step of using the measured light absorbance of a dyebath sample and the measured light absorbance of non-dye components of the dyebath to calculate the concentration of the dye in the dyebath, in combination with the rest of the limitations of the claim.

***Conclusion***

This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 1-8 and 13 to inventions non-elected with traverse in the telephone conversation of November 18, 2003.

Applicant is given TWO MONTHS from the date of this letter to cancel the noted claims or take other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144). Failure to take action during this period will be treated as authorization to cancel the noted claims by Examiner's Amendment and pass the case to issue.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

***Fax/Telephone Numbers***

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technology Center 2800 by facsimile transmission. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The fax number for Technology Center 2800 is (703) 872-9306 for regular and After Final communications.

If applicant wishes to send a fax containing a Proposed Amendment for discussion during either a personal interview or a telephone interview then the fax should:

- 1) Contain either the statement "**DRAFT**" or "**PROPOSED AMENDMENT**" on the Fax Cover Sheet; and
- 2) Should be unsigned by the attorney or agent.

This will ensure that the amendment will not be entered into the application and will be forwarded to the examiner as quickly as possible.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to the examiner whose telephone number is (703) 308-4805. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank G. Font, can be reached on (703) 308-4881. The TC Receptionist's telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Any other inquiry of a technical nature, and all inquiries of a general nature including those relating to the status of an application should be directed to TC 2800 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-3329.

Application/Control Number: 09/847,669  
Art Unit: 2877

Page 6



**F. L. EVANS**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**  
**ART UNIT 2877**

fle  
December 4, 2003